AQHA NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

WEST EAST

2012 HANDBOOK

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2012 NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDBOOK

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective Date and Repeal

These rules become effective January 1, 2012, for the conduct of the AQHA Novice Championships of 2012.

The AQHA Novice Championships shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the AQHA Official Handbook, the Novice Championships Handbook, South Point Rules and Regulations and the Tennessee Miller Coliseum Rules and Regulations. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations, and all decisions made by show management will be final.

There will be two AQHA Novice Championships held October 5-7, 2012; one at the South Point Arena & Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada; the other at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

No official AQHA points will be earned by participation in the Novice Championships; however, placing in the top ten, Reserve Novice Champions and Novice Champions will be recognized on the permanent record of the respective horse.

QUALIFYING

- The qualifying period is May 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012.
- It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse, but the exhibitor and horse must qualify as a team, the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse and the exhibitor must be a current novice Amateur or novice Youth member in good standing. (if a membership will expire prior to the Novice Championships, the membership can be renewed at the time of the show).
- Horses that are leased with the proper show lease are eligible, so long as the exhibitor/horse qualify as a team.
- There are three ways to qualify:
  - As a national qualifier, an exhibitor/horse combination must earn a top ten placing in a novice class at an AQHA Regional Championship Show during the qualifying period.
  - As a national qualifier, an exhibitor/horse combination must exhibit in 20 shows during the qualifying period.
    - Regular, Split/Combined, Introductory, Novice, Rookie Shows and Special Events will count
      - For 2012 only, any class in any division (open, youth, amateur, novice youth, novice amateur) will count as qualifying classes; however, during the qualifying period for the 2013 Novice Championships, only the novice classes will count.
  - As a state/provincial qualifier, the exhibitor/horse combination must qualify according to the criteria set by that particular state/provincial affiliate.
    - At the end of the qualifying period, each affiliate will submit their list of qualifiers to AQHA. If an exhibitor qualifies through the affiliate method in any single class, he/she may enter any class at the Novice Championships.
    - Each affiliate will submit three qualifiers per class, or if there are not three qualifiers in a particular class, the affiliate may move that “slot” to another class; however, no more than six state qualifiers will be allowed in any particular class.

- If an exhibitor chooses to qualify more than one horse, each horse must be qualified according to the rules listed above.
- If an exhibitor has graduated out of novice in a class, he/she is still eligible to show in that class at the next year's Novice Championship show so long as they qualify according to Novice Championships rules.
- In halter and performance halter, exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by January 1 of the show year.
- An exhibitor may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they have qualified properly.

CLASSES

- The following classes will be offered in Novice Amateur and Novice Youth classes:

  - Yearling Mares
  - 2-Yr-Old Mares
  - 3-Yr-Old Mares
  - Aged Mares
  - Performance Halter Mares
  - Yearling Geldings
  - 2-Yr-Old Geldings
  - 3-Yr-Old Geldings
  - Aged Geldings
  - Performance Halter Geldings
  - Showmanship
  - Barrels
  - Poles
  - Stake Race
  - Reining
  - Western Riding
  - Trail
  - Horsemanship
  - Western Pleasure
  - Hunter Under Saddle
  - Hunt Seat Equitation

ENTERING & FEES

- An exhibitor/horse may attend either of the Novice Championships, no matter where they reside; however, a competitor may only show at one Novice Championship show per year.
- Jan Bruner is the contact person for the Las Vegas show, and entries for that show must be received by her no later than August 31, 2012 (see entry form for more info). ABSOLUTELY NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER DEADLINE.
- Keri Croft is the contact person for the Tennessee show, and entries for that show must be received by her no later than August 31, 2012 (see entry form for more info). ABSOLUTELY NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER DEADLINE.
- The entry fee will be $275; this fee covers as many classes as you want to enter, as well as, a drug testing fee and one stall for the duration of the show.
  - Tack stalls can be purchased for $100 each, but four horse stalls must be purchased per one tack (for specific stall rules, see the particular Novice Championship - East or West you intend to enter).
- Should a horse receiving an invitation to the 2012 Novice Championships die, the exhibitor may participate with another horse.
- Should a horse receiving an invitation to the 2012 Novice Championships become seriously injured or debilitated and cannot be shown, if the owner provides two separate veterinarians' statements regarding the injury or illness and the fact that the horse cannot be shown, that exhibitor may participate with another horse.
- If a horse qualifies for both the halter and performance halter classes, the exhibitor must choose which class to enter – no horse can enter both the halter and performance halter classes.
- Extra stalls can be purchased for $100 each; however, stalls are limited in Murfreesboro and will be assigned to horses entered in the show first. Also, in Murfreesboro, shavings and RV reservations must be pre-ordered. In Las Vegas, you must order a minimum of six bags of shavings and the South Point will pre-bed your stalls with those shavings.

OTHER

- All horses are subject to drug testing under the provisions of Rule 441(h) of AQHA's *Official Handbook*.
- Because stallions are not allowed in novice classes, they will be prohibited from the show grounds.
- An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary.
- Awards will be presented for first through tenth. Additionally, an All-Around Novice Amateur and All-Around Novice Youth will be named.
    - To be eligible for all-around honors, a horse must compete in at least three events in three or more categories.
        - Category I – Halter/Performance Halter
        - Category II – Reining, Western Riding, Trail
        - Category III – Barrels, Poles, Stake Race
        - Category V – Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle
        - Category VII – Showmanship, Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation
    - Scoring for all-around honors shall be as follows:
        - Horses placing in the top nine will be given a credit for each horse placing below them, plus one credit (not to exceed nine credits) for first place.
            - Example: In a class of nine or more horses, the first-place horse receives nine credits, second gets eight credits, and so on down through ninth place.
            - No credits will be awarded to a disqualified horse, regardless of the number in the class. However, when less than nine are placed, even though more than nine entered the class, credits will be awarded on the basis of the number exhibited in the class.
            - In case a tie occurs, the horse in the Novice Amateur and/or the Novice Youth All-Around will be the one who:
                1. Earned credits in the greatest number of events
                2. The horse or contestant winning over the greatest number of horses
                3. Earned the most credits in performance events
- A Novice Youth and Novice Amateur Halter Champion of Champions will be named.
    - The winners of each halter class (ten classes – yearling geldings, 2-yr-old geldings, 3-yr-old geldings, aged geldings and performance halter geldings; yearling mares, 2-yr-old mares, 3-yr-old mares, aged mares and performance halter mares) in Novice Youth will be brought back to be judged in one class, where the judge will name the Champion of Champions in Novice Youth. Mares and geldings will compete for this award.
    - The winners of each halter class (ten classes – yearling geldings, 2-yr-old geldings, 3-yr-old geldings, aged geldings and performance halter geldings; yearling mares, 2-yr-old mares, 3-yr-old mares, aged mares and performance halter mares) in Novice Amateur will be brought back to be judged in one class, where the judge will name the Champion of Champions in Novice Amateur. Mares and geldings will compete for this award.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / INDEMNITY

Participants (and, if 17 years old or younger, participants' parents and/or legal guardians) agree that they understand the nature of Novice Championship Show participation and attendance activities ("Activities") and that the Activities include, but are not limited to, "inherent risks of equine activities" that may result in property damage and bodily injury, including, but not limited to, permanent disability, paralysis, and death (collectively "risks"); that such risks may be caused by participant's own action or inaction, the action or inaction of others participating in the activities, the condition of the premises at which the activities take place, and/or the negligence of the "releasees" named below. Participants understand that "inherent risk of equine activities" means dangers or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (a) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury or loss to persons on or around the equine; (b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals; (c) hazards, including, but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions; (d) a collision with another equine, another animal, a person, or an object; and (e) the potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury or loss to the person of the participant or to other persons, including, but not limited to, failing to maintain control over an equine or failing to act within the ability of the participant.

A PARTICIPANT FULLY ACCEPTS AND ASSUMES ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES PARTICIPANT INCURS AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES. PARTICIPANT HEREBY RELEASES, DISCHARGES, AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE AQHA, AQHA CORPORATE PARTNERS OR, THE OWNER AND LESSORS OF PREMISES ON WHICH THE ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE OR THEIR RESPECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES (EACH CONSIDERED ONE OF THE "RELEASEES" HEREIN) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES WHENEVER OR HOWEVER ARISING AS TO INJURY, DEATH AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OR CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

A participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend releasees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, from all third party claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses of any nature arising out of (i) participant's negligent act(s) or omissions during or related in any way to the activities; and/or (ii) participant's willful act(s) or omission(s) during or related in any way to the activities.

GENERAL JUDGING/MONITORING PROCEDURES

- All events will be judged according to the rules listed in the AQHA Official Handbook. No other publication will supersede the rules of the AQHA Official Handbook, or the Novice Championships Handbook, including the show program.
- All judges are to inspect each and every horse in all classes for possible lameness.
  - In both performance and halter classes, a horse shall automatically be disqualified if one or more judges call the horse lame during the class.
  - If it is determined that an entry does not fit the criteria of Rule 446 of the AQHA Official Handbook of being obviously lame, the horse will not be excused and will be left in the arena.
- There will be two judges for all classes, and their placings will be combined.
- Judges will score each class independently and will place through 10 places.
- In placed classes, judges' individual score or placing cards will be given to show management for tabulation.
- Ties:
  - Placed events:
    - If the ties cannot be broken by totaling both judges' placings, it will be done by using a tie-breaker judge. Judge no. 1 is the first tie-breaker; if judge no. 1 did not use any of the tied horses, then judge no. 2 becomes the tie-breaker judge; if judge no. 2 did not use any of the tied horses, then flip of a coin will be used.
  - Timed events:
    - Any horse receiving no time on its first run is eliminated.
      - If there is a tie for the Novice Championship or top ten placing, the tie will be run off until there is a winner.
  - Scored events:
    - Any horse receiving no score on his first run is eliminated.
    - If there is a tie for the Novice Championship, the tie will be worked off.
    - All ties will be broken by totaling both judges' scores.
    - If the ties cannot be broken by totaling both judges' scores, it will be done by using a tie-breaker judge. Judge no. 1 is the first tie-breaker; if judge no. 1 scored the tied horses alike, then judge no. 2 becomes the tie-breaker judge; if judge no. 2 scored the tied horses alike, then flip of a coin will be used.
- A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented not only as an aid to assist the judges, but also in an effort to provide the exhibitors with a fair and accurate score or time. A run will not be reviewed if, after giving back the penalty points in question, the exhibitor's score would not be enough to place in the top ten.
  - The monitor system will be used
    - to review any lack of concurrence in scores or times when major penalties, disqualifications, zero scores, "no times" are involved (hereafter "Major Penalties; see specific classes), or
    - when a judge requests a review.
  - Lack of concurrence concerning lameness or non major penalties will not be reviewed.
  - A penalty review will not have any impact on the run content. The judge may only add or subtract the penalty value to the score.
  - All penalty reviews will take place during the next drag, break, or at the end of the class.
    - It is possible that a public announcement may not be made that an exhibitor's performance is being reviewed.
      - Regardless of whether a public announcement is made, no scores or times are official until penalty reviews are completed.

- No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call and based on the individual decision from a video replay.

- Movement of horses in any class will be at the discretion of the judge; however, horses will not be pulled out or lined up in placing order by any judge at any time, except in halter and as directed by show management.

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

- ***BARREL RACING/POLE BENDING/STAKE RACE***
  - In all barrel, poles and stake racing classes, the following disqualifications may be monitored:
    - Failure of hat or helmet to be on the rider's head when he or she enters the arena.
    - Failure to follow course.
    - Excessive use of whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
  - In stake racing, the following disqualifications may be monitored:
    - Failure of contestant to cross the start and finish line between the markers.
    - Failure of contestant to cross over the center line between the markers before turning the second pole and cross back over the center line after turning the second pole.
    - If an upright marker or pole is knocked down.
  - If there is a tie for the Novice Championship or a top ten placing, the tie will be run off.
    - In the case of electric timer malfunction, re-runs may be required as directed by show management and their decision shall be final.
  - Failure of hat or helmet to be on the exhibitor's person for the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena will result in a $50 fine.

- ***HALTER/PERFORMANCE HALTER***
  - The winner of each halter class will be designated the novice champion in that class. There will be no grand champion or reserve grand champion in these events; however, the first place horse from each halter class in the Novice Amateur and in the Novice Youth divisions will come back to the arena where the judge will name a Champion of Champions.
  - Horses will not be pulled out or lined up in placing order by any judge at any time, except in halter and as directed by show management.
  - If one judge calls a horse lame during a halter class, the horse will be required to re-track.
  - A judge, or judges, may excuse a horse from competition for poor mannerisms:
    - A well-mannered horse is defined as a horse that is under control by the exhibitor while tracking and standing for inspection such that it may be exhibited safely and viewed safely by the judge. The horse should stand reasonably still and flat-footed. At their discretion, the judge may fault a horse that is poorly mannered (including, but not limited to, biting, rearing, striking or bucking) but does not disrupt or endanger other horses or exhibitors around them, and is able to be inspected by the judge. A horse that is excessively unruly or poor mannered (see Rule 438.b.3 of AQHA's *Official Handbook*), not clearly under the control of the exhibitor, and/or disruptive to the point that the safety of other horses or exhibitors or the judge is jeopardized, should be disqualified and excused from the class. Any clear evidence of fresh blood on the horse, including, but not limited to, the nose, chin, mouth, tongue or gums, regardless of cause, shall be cause for disqualification.

- A contestant will be disqualified and immediately excused for abuse of a horse.

- ***HUNT SEAT EQUITATION***
  - The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
    - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
    - Knocking over a cone.
    - Working on the wrong side of the cones.
    - Turning the wrong way.
- ***HUNTER UNDER SADDLE***
  - An exhibitor who fails to take the prescribed gait when called may be penalized at the judges' discretion.

- ***REINING***
  - Zero (0) scores, no scores, two (2), with the exception of marker penalties, and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.

- ***SHOWMANSHIP***
  - The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
    - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
    - Knocking over a cone.
    - Working on the wrong side of the cones.

- ***TRAIL***
  - Zero (0) scores, three (3) point and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.
  - Only two refusals are permitted at any obstacle in the trail class.
    - After two refusals, the contestant must go to the next obstacle.
  - Trail will be treated as a scored class.

- ***WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP***
  - The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
    - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
    - Knocking over a cone.
    - Working on the wrong side of the cones.
    - Turning the wrong way.

- ***WESTERN PLEASURE***
  - An exhibitor who fails to take the prescribed gait when called may be penalized at the judges' discretion.

- ***WESTERN RIDING***
  - Zero (0) scores, three (3) point and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.

ATTIRE

- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class; however, this is a world class event that will receive worldwide publicity. Therefore, exhibitors are urged to be neat and clean at all times.

WARM-UP ARENA GUIDELINES

- No training devices may be used in the warm-up arena(s).
- When riding as practice or in competition anywhere on the grounds, please keep in mind Rule 443(h) of AQHA's *Official Handbook* pertaining to the use of a curb strap: "when a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge [or AQHA steward], be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord."

VIDEOING OF THE NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

AQHA may film and/or photograph all owners, trainers and exhibitors, together with all horses participating in the various events of the championships, to compile AQHA publicity footage, instructional films, a telecast or live Webcast of the event, etc..as it determines. Furthermore, from time to time, AQHA receives requests from various sources for permission to film and/or photograph the championships to be used in the development of instructional and promotional materials. This includes class performances. The majority of this material is developed by university extension programs as judging materials and is used for comparative purposes. By participating, owners, trainers and exhibitors agree that no compensation shall be due from AQHA, SmartPak, Nutrena or any other party for the publication and/or broadcast of their likeness, picture, name, etc. Please refer to Rule 101(f)(5) of the AQHA Official Handbook.

Exhibitor understands, agrees and acknowledges that official AQHA/Novice Championships videographers and photographers and mass media approved by AQHA have full access to the SmartPak AQHA West Novice Championship and the Nutrena AQHA East Novice Championship at any time. **This includes the use of lights, flashes and other photo and video equipment.** All exhibitors understand, agree and acknowledge that they should be prepared for the possibility of official photographers, videographers and/or approved mass media taping and/or taking pictures of warm-ups, competition, etc.

Any commercial photography and/or video, or advertisement thereof, taken of subjects within the show ring without prior written consent from show management is expressly forbidden. No professional photographers or videographers capturing images for sale are allowed without the express written permission of the American Quarter Horse Association. All media should check in with the horse show office.